



# Sheffield PSC and Children's Projects in the Gaza Strip, Palestine.

## Newsletter Number 1

### February 2020

#### SOME OF THE CHILDREN WE ARE SUPPORTING

#### Gaza and Sheffield: a link as strong as steel.

2020 is the year in which Gaza becomes impossible to live in, according to the World Health Organisation. This is not because of its inhospitable natural environment, climate or a lack of resources essential to life. Indeed, Gaza should be a wonderful place to live; however, it is not.

Gaza's situation is the result of the deliberately planned and illegal policies and practices of the Israeli regime. The Gaza blockade (through land, air and sea) is a denial of basic human rights and a collective punishment against all Gazans in contravention of international law.

#### Sheffield PSC's projects in Gaza

Sheffield's commitment to a range of children's projects in Gaza began in 1994 and we present here the projects we currently support. All the projects are registered charities.

#### Afaq Jadeeda/New Horizons



This centre is located in the Nusseirat Refugee Camp, which is a few miles south of Gaza city and is home to 64,000 Palestinian refugees. Afaq Jadeeda is run by a small group of volunteers as a local charity.

We have supported this project for several years by providing yearly supplies of new books, videos, toys and other educational materials for learning and enjoyment; we also funded a TV and video player and four LCD screens with the built-in capacity to show films. There is a small playground and we provided equipment: slides, merry-go-rounds, swings and seesaws. The centre has an arts and activities room which Sheffield refurbished. We also built a theatre stage and two storage and changing rooms, with all necessary equipment.



### Never Stop Dreaming

The Never Stop Dreaming Children's Centre in Khan Younis was established by Sheffield PSC with the help of local volunteers. We support the full running costs of this centre.

The Children's Mobile Library is based here but travels widely and has become a welcome sight wherever it goes. We support both the centre and the Mobile Library with resources, not only of reading materials but also colouring books and pens, toys and table tennis equipment, all of which require periodic updating

An end of summer ceremony draws families together to celebrate with their children.

### Al Asria

This centre is in the Jabalia Refugee Camp, north of Gaza city and is home to 104,000 Palestinian refugees. It is run by the Union of Health Work Committees (a medical charity).

Some of the work we support

here is similar to that in Afaq Jadeeda.

However, Al Asria has an emphasis on Dabka dance and performance, and we have on many occasions helped with the provision of new sets of traditional costumes. The centre also has a children's orchestra, which we helped to establish, providing the equipment needed for a sound-proof recording studio where they record their own original songs.

We also support the annual fortnight-long summer camps for 150 youngsters. These provide the children with fun activities and outings. Al Asria also offers many educational opportunities, such as computer skills which are essential for Gazans to connect with the outside world.

### ***The Healing Centre: our latest project.***

*This was established in partnership with Never Stop Dreaming and is located in Khuza'a, one of the towns most frequently attacked by the Israeli army. Thousands of children in Khuza'a and the neighbouring area suffer trauma as a result of the 2014 Israeli onslaught. In that attack alone, a third of Khuza'a town was destroyed and tens of civilians were killed. The Healing Centre makes a contribution to the wellbeing of the children who survived.*



Every picture tells a story



**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child article 6**

*Every child has the right to life.*

*Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential*

**UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, article 31**

*Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities*



**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, article 29**

*Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment*



## Solidarity with Gaza and its children.



### Do you want to join us in supporting the Children's Projects?

We stage many activities to raise funds for the centres. Our sister organisations in Chesterfield and Manchester add their support too.

Some people contribute a monthly amount by standing order to the Centres. This way, the budgets are on a secure footing and we can plan for stability and growth.

**Donations to Sheffield Palestine Cultural Exchange (SPaCE)**

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